

# Wisconsin Emergency Management

# Digest

Governor Jim Doyle

Major General Albert Wilkening  
The Adjutant General

Johnnie L. Smith  
Administrator

## In This Issue

State responds to  
hurricane victims  
Page 3

Time for winter weather  
preparedness in  
Wisconsin  
Page 5

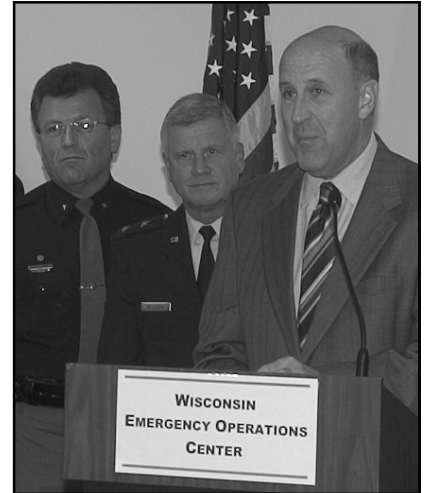
## Preparedness report issued

Major General Al Wilkening, Adjutant General of Wisconsin, and Wisconsin's Homeland Security Advisor presented Governor Doyle with a comprehensive report evaluating Wisconsin's Emergency Preparedness plans and recommending specific action steps the state will take to avoid the mistakes made in the response to Hurricane Katrina.

"Like many Wisconsin residents, I was deeply troubled by what I saw in Louisiana," Governor Doyle said. "This report is the first step toward ensuring that if a disaster of that magnitude were to happen here, these things wouldn't happen – Wisconsin would be ready."

The report addresses each of the "Lessons Learned" from Hurricane Katrina, Wisconsin's readiness in that area, an assessment of the lesson, recommendations to better prepare the state on how to avoid it in Wisconsin, and a timetable to implement action.

The report was prepared by Wisconsin Emergency Management and the Department of Military Affairs and was issued on October 7, 2005. It is available online at <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>.



## FEMA denies tornado disaster relief

Despite a record setting 28 tornadoes that hit Wisconsin on August 18, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has denied Governor Doyle's request for federal disaster assistance.

One person was killed and nearly 400 homes were destroyed or damaged when tornadoes struck southern Wisconsin. Hardest hit areas included an F3 in Dane County and an F2 in the Viola area.

On August 25, Governor Doyle formally requested federal disaster assistance for the impacted counties. The state was informed on September 23 that the request was denied. The Governor has appealed the decision and as of Nov. 30, the state was still awaiting a decision.



*The F-3 tornado hits the Stoughton area. Photo by Tom Sandine*

# Record setting 28 tornadoes on Aug. 18, 2005



Homeowners began the process of sifting through debris. Photo by Anita Cornell



Governor Doyle and Major General Al Wilkening get an aerial view of some of the tornado damage. Photo by Tim Donovan



Governor Doyle thanks some of the rescue workers and volunteers in Viola following the F2 tornado that hit that community. Photo by Tim Donovan



Damage from the tornadoes was widespread. Photo by Anita Cornell

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PO Box 7865  
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(608) 242-3232

<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>

Editor: Lori Getter  
(608) 242-3239 or

e-mail: [lori.getter@dma.state.wi.us](mailto:lori.getter@dma.state.wi.us)

*Due to the Aug. 18 tornadoes & Hurricanes Katrina/Rita, the WEM Digest July/August and Sept./Oct. issues were not published*

# Wisconsin responds to Hurricane Katrina

Nearly 2,000 families made their way to Wisconsin following the outbreak of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that struck the gulf coast region. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as of November 15, 1,971 evacuee households have registered as staying in Wisconsin.

Following Hurricane Katrina, Governor Doyle ordered 500 Wisconsin National Guard soldiers to Louisiana to help provide assistance and relief. In addition, the Governor made available emergency housing at the Tommy Thompson Youth Center at State Fair Park for hurricane evacuees. On September 8, two charter flights from Louisiana arrived with 170 people and 26 pets. Eventually 365 evacuees would stay at the shelter which was coordinated by the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army with key support from the city and county of Milwaukee, as well as state agencies. The shelter closed November 1, as remaining evacuees were moved into long-term housing.

Wisconsin Emergency Management continues to coordinate the state's



**Evacuees that arrived on FEMA chartered flights were processed at the 128th Wisconsin Air National Guard Refueling Wing before being taken to the emergency shelter set up at the Tommy Thompson Youth Center at State Fair Park.**

hurricane relief efforts. The State Emergency Operations Center was partially activated for two weeks immediately following Hurricane Katrina. Wisconsin received a federal emergency declaration to allow state and local agencies to recoup costs associated with caring for Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

Evacuees from the hurricane ravaged gulf coast temporarily living in Wisconsin with family and friends may be eligible for transitional housing assistance through a new program funded under federal disaster relief efforts. The program will only be open for new applicants until December 15. The transitional housing program is a coordinated effort between WEM, the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), local Public Housing Authorities (PHA), FEMA and the U.S. Department of Housing and Economic Development (HUD). The program is designed to ensure that evacuees are able to move into their own temporary housing units. Individuals or families seeking housing assistance under the new program should contact their local public housing authority office located throughout the state. PHA staff will work with the displaced families to search for appropriate housing, assist with landlord leases, coordinate utility services and provide necessary household items.

In addition, WEM coordinated the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) requests for assistance. Manitowoc County Emergency Management Director Nancy Crowley, Grant County Emergency Management Director Steve Braun and City of Whitewater Emergency Management Director Mike Ciardo were deployed under EMAC to Mississippi to assist with FEMA's Community Relations function. Other state agencies including the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Workforce Development also sent staff to the gulf states.



**Governor Doyle welcomes an evacuee to Wisconsin. Two FEMA chartered flights with hurricane evacuees were sent to Milwaukee.**

# Earthquake scenario test responders

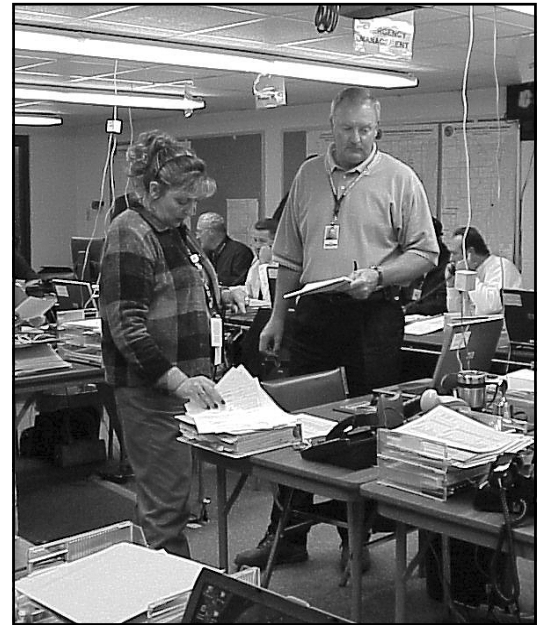
Numerous federal, state, local and industry officials participated in the Kewaunee Power Station exercise held November 1. The nuclear power plant is located south of Kewaunee, on the shore of Lake Michigan.

Emergency responders were evaluated on their response to a leak at the plant caused by an earthquake. The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Madison along with the Manitowoc and Kewaunee County EOC's were activated. In addition, mock media briefings were conducted at the Joint Information Center in Green Bay.

During the exercise, officials were required to demonstrate actions such as evacuation, decontamination, and opening shelters all designed to protect the public in the event of an accident at the facilities. Both Manitowoc and Kewaunee Counties were responsible for coordinating and directing the local emergency response activities.

The state of Wisconsin and the counties were evaluated by federal evaluators on how well they responded to events which were unfolded during the exercise. Activities evaluated included activation of the emergency operation centers, coordination of protective actions between the state and the counties, sampling and identifying contaminated areas, evacuations and opening reception centers, monitoring people for radiation exposure and decontaminating them if necessary.

WEM is responsible for determining and carrying out Wisconsin's role in biennially exercising with each of the three nuclear power plants.



**Kewaunee County Emergency Management Director Lori Hucek and Wisconsin Emergency Management East Central Regional Director Dan Dahlke discuss some of the protective measures at the Kewaunee County Emergency Operations Center during the Kewaunee Power Station exercise. Photo by Dan Dahlke**



## Following Procedures

**An ambulance crew chief gives instructions to his EMT's for patient treatment protocols following a simulated chemical exposure during an exercise held in the City of Port Washington. Photo by Bill Stolte**

## New Homeland Security Newsletter

This fall, the Governor's Homeland Security Council unveiled its new newsletter geared towards informing the public about ongoing projects and programs to keep Wisconsin safe.

Homefront will be issued twice a year, unless events warrant issuing a special newsletter. If you would like to submit information or would like to receive this homeland security newsletter, please send to: [lori.getter@dma.state.wi.us](mailto:lori.getter@dma.state.wi.us).



It is also available on the homeland security website at <http://homelandsecurity.wi.gov>.

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# Food industry participates in ag. exercise

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**By Mike Sampson**

**Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection**

Jefferson and Dodge Counties partnered with a major local meat processing facility to discuss an animal disease outbreak as part of a tabletop exercise held September 28.

Jefferson County Emergency Management Director Donna Haugom said the exercise with Johnsonville was an excellent opportunity to work with private industry regarding a topic that could have huge impacts on the community and the state. "Johnsonville has a hog-slaughter facility in Watertown and approached us last spring wanting help to see how an animal disease would affect the facility's operation," she said. "An industry request helped make this exercise unique. Another factor was the fact the Johnsonville facility is located in both Dodge and Jefferson Counties."

Nearly 70 people participated in the exercise held in Watertown. The scenario involved an outbreak of foot and mouth disease discovered at the Johnsonville facility and involved local, state and federal response. The exercise examined the role of industry, responders, agency authorities, the Incident Command System, quarantine and transportation issues, and communications.

Haugom said the exercise also identified the need for several follow-up exercise needs, including a detailed look at the Incident Command System. Co-facilitators for the exercise were Wisconsin Emergency Management Exercise Trainer Bob Klinger and Mike Sampson, Agency Liaison, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.



## Get Ready for Wisconsin Winter

(National Weather Service)

- \* The coldest temperature in the 2004-05 winter season was -35 at Solon Springs (Douglas Co.) on January 17, 2005. Hurley (Iron Co.) had the most snow with 153.1 inches, while Mazomanie (Dane Co.) had the least with 23.0 inches.
- \* Wisconsin's all-time lowest temperature is -55 F on Feb. 2 & 4, 1996 near Couderay (Sawyer Co.). Readings of -30 F or colder have been recorded in every month from November through April.
- \* Average annual snowfall ranges from 35 to 40 inches near the Illinois border to 150 to 165 inches in the Iron County snow belt from Gurney to Hurley.
- \* Greatest single storm total - Superior, 31.0 inches Oct 31-Nov. 2, 1991.
- \* Greatest seasonal total - Hurley, 301.8 inches in 1996-97 winter season.
- \* Deepest snow on ground (excluding drifts) - Hurley, 60.0 inches on Jan. 30, 1996.



## Farm Days

*Wisconsin Emergency Management West Central Regional Director Lois Ristow tests radios at the Clark County Farm Tech Days. Photo by Al Wohlferd*

# Local programs vie for mitigation grants

By Roxanne Gray  
WEM Hazard Mitigation Officer

Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) recently received grant awards for 17 planning and one project subgrant under the 2005 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program. An additional three subgrants are still being considered for federal funding.

WEM's Hazard Mitigation Program originally submitted requests for 19 planning grants and 6 projects. Those that were not included remain on a waiting list and may be considered at a later date if funding becomes available. Eligible planning subgrants include funds to develop all hazard mitigation plans for 16 additional counties along with funding to WEM to further enhance the State Plan. Projects include the cities of Darlington, Monona and Superior. Along with state management costs the State expects to receive \$3,284,383 through the 2005 PDM Program. The program is administered by WEM and grants are 75% federally funded with a 25% local match.

Approximately \$235 million was available nationwide for competitive grants under the 2005 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) received over 800 applications for over \$500 million. In addition, the 2006 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program guidance is available at [www.fema.gov/fima/pdm.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/fima/pdm.shtm).

The PDM Program provides funding to states, tribes, local governments and public colleges and universities for pre-disaster mitigation planning and implementation of cost-effective mitigation measures that address natural hazards. Applicants must have a FEMA-approved all hazards mitigation plan to be eligible to receive grant funding to implement mitigation measures as identified in the plans. Those interested in applying should contact the WEM mitigation staff at 608-242-3211.

## Regional Briefs

Welcome to **Mitch Moline** who joined Wisconsin Emergency Management in October as a Radiological Emergency Planner. Previously, Mitch was with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.



**Moline**

**Janell Rucinski** has joined the Northeast Regional Office as a Program Assistant. Welcome Janell!

Best wishes to **West Central Regional Program Assistant Kari Lammers** who has accepted another position. Good luck!



**Rucinski**

**Matt Marmor** will start with Calumet County as emergency management director.

Mark your calendars! **The 39th Annual Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security** will be held **April 4-5, 2006** at the Grand Geneva Resort at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. If you have suggestions for possible speakers or topics—please contact Diane Kleiboer at [diane.kleiboer@dma.state.wi.us](mailto:diane.kleiboer@dma.state.wi.us).



## Deploying Trailers

*Members of Jackson, La Crosse and Monroe County emergency responder groups recently set up their Mass Casualty Response Units at Melrose-Mindoro High School. Each county displayed trailer equipment and described how it will be deployed and utilized following an incident. Photo by John Elliott*

# WEMA's goals to promote local programs

By Ben Schliesman  
WEMA President

Some of you are still unaware of what the Wisconsin Emergency Management Association (WEMA) is and what it can do for you. The purpose of WEMA is to advocate, promote and represent statewide emergency management interests in order to enhance the safety and security of all citizens and promote emergency management.

In recent years, the emergency management profession has grown as projects and responsibilities continue to increase. County emergency management offices have taken on Homeland Security (HS) issues/responsibilities including HS grants. In addition, the local emergency management program continues to develop additional planning and preparedness initiatives, new EPCRA facility planning as well as mitigation and disaster response and recovery efforts.

This fall, the tornadoes that struck our state and the hurricanes that impacted our nation, once again pushed emergency management into the forefront. Our local citizens and government officials are now looking to the county emergency management director, asking if we are prepared.

Once again, the time is right to promote our profession and our local emergency management program. It is also the responsibility of WEMA to promote emergency management statewide. Our past President Cullen Peltier did an excellent job guiding WEMA to where it is today, but there is much more to do and new challenges to meet.

WEMA needs to do the following:

- Continue to strengthen emergency management as a profession and promote emergency management through the media and WEMA's website.
- Develop working committees to benefit/promote emergency management.
- Partner with the Wisconsin Counties Association, whenever possible.
- Continue to network/meet with state and local agencies and offices.
- Continue to network/meet with all emergency responder associations and groups.
- Pursue federal/state legislation that benefits the emergency management profession.

I believe by having an active WEMA and being involved with the above organizations, this will not only make WEMA stronger but also continue to promote and support our local programs.



## New ICS Course Available

*Jefferson County Emergency Management Director Donna Haugom (left) discusses an animal-disease scenario as part of an Incident Command System training held in September. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is offering a Basic ICS course with a slant towards agriculture, food and natural resources. For more information, contact Mike Sampson of DATCP at 608-224-4881 or e-mail at michael.sampson@datcp.state.wi.us. Photo by Mike Sampson*





## **WEM's Weather Guy**

*Wisconsin Emergency Management's own meteorologist Shane Hubbard visited teacher Lori Armstrong's 4th grade class at Prairie Elementary School in Waunakee on October 5, 2005 to discuss weather and weather patterns. Shane works in WEM's Bureau of Response and Recovery. Photo by Anita Cornell*

## **Upcoming Events for 2006**

**Tornado & Severe Weather  
Awareness Week**

**April 17-21**

(Statewide Drill —April 20)

**NOAA Weather Radio Day**

**May 17**

**Heat Awareness Day**

**June 15**

**Amateur Radio Recognition Day**

**June 17**

**Winter Awareness Week**

**November 6-10**



PO Box 7865  
2400 Wright St.  
Madison, WI 53707-7865